

ALL RAILROADS GO
UNDER CONTROL OF
THE GOVERNMENT
WITHOUT FORMALITY

McAdoo Issues First Order
to Speed Up Traffic
Movement

WAR BOARD WILL
CONTINUE AS HEAD
OF ALL OPERATIONS

Director General Gives No
Intimation as to Form-
ing New Staff Now

Washington, December 28. The railroads of the United States passed into government possession at noon today as Secretary McAdoo, designated by President Wilson as directing the railroads war board delegating to the railroads war board the task of operating them for the present.

The war board, comprising five of the country's foremost railroad executives, who have been in supreme charge of the roads for the last nine months, were called into conference at 11 o'clock to discuss plans for welding all transportation lines into a single government operated system. They left the treasury department two hours later under instructions to continue their functions and to submit immediately a plan of operation to the director general.

McAdoo Issues His
First Official Order

Tonight Mr. McAdoo issued his first formal order designed to speed up freight movement, telegraphing all railroad presidents and directors instructions to move traffic by the most convenient and direct routes. At the same time he ordered them to continue operation of their lines in conformity with the President's proclamation putting them under government control. There was no indication tonight whether Mr. McAdoo intended eventually to displace the war board with an organization of his own or to continue its organization for the duration of the war. It was made clear, however, that it will continue to function until the director general decides that a better system can be devised.

The order that freight move by the most expeditious routes opens the way for a pooling of traffic impossible heretofore by reason of statutes designed to prevent the practice by carriers operated under private direction. It takes from the shipper the right to route his freight as he wishes and leaves to the railroad traffic manager the task of sending it most directly and where there is least congestion. The order follows:

TEXT OF ORDER MADE TO
HASTEN FREIGHT MOVEMENT

"Having assumed the duties imposed upon me and in pursuance of the proclamation of the President, dated December 26, 1917, you will, until otherwise ordered, continue the operation of your road in conformity with said proclamation. You are requested to make every possible effort to increase efficiency and to move traffic by the most convenient and expeditious routes. I confidently count on your hearty co-operation. It is only through united effort, unselfish service and effective work that this war can be won and America's future be secured."

Although Mr. McAdoo does not believe a complete unification of all rail systems can be brought about overnight even with legal restrictions lifted, he fully expects measures taken under government control will remove some of the obstacles that now prevent the rapid movement of freight. Members of the war board were requested to study the situation and report on any measures to relieve congestion they think might wisely be put into force.

JOHN BARTON PAYNE
MAY BE LEGAL ADVISER

Thus far the director general has made no plans for a staff, although it is considered likely that one of his legal assistants will be John Barton Payne of Chicago, now legal adviser to Chairman Hurley of the shipping board. He asked the war board today for a complete chart of its organization, which was furnished tonight.

In drafting into service the war board organization, the director general takes over the services of all the board's committees, including the operating committee of eastern railroads headed by A. W. Thompson of the Baltimore and Ohio. He obtains the services as well of the board's service commission, which now is assisting the interstate commerce commission in distributing cars.

Pooling of railroad equipment, already started by the war board, will be carried much further under government operation. Common use especially will be made of terminal facilities and Mr. McAdoo asked the war board today for a special report on terminal facilities and the extent to which they may be pooled.

NON-ESSENTIALS WILL
BE DENIED ALL RIGHTS

An early measure to relieve congestion, it was intimated tonight, will be a denial of transportation to non-essential commodities. Traffic that is considered

Three of Pershing's
Men Reported Killed

Corporal of Engineers Victim of Bursting Shell and Two
Privates in Rear Camp Fall When Aviator Drops
Bombs During a Moonlight Raid

With the American Army in France, December 28.—A corporal of American engineers was killed and one private was wounded Christmas eve by a German shell dropped near a party of American engineers working trenches on a section of the French front. The engineers for several hours had been working along the front with veteran French engineers in poses of instruction.

With the American Army in France, December 28.—During a moonlight night German aviators dropped bombs near a certain two American privates who were in a camp in a wood were killed. German airmen flew low and dropped their bombs accurately.

With the American Army in France, Thursday, December 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—For three days snow has been falling intermittently throughout the American zone, interfering with the training of troops and with communications. No serious difficulty has been experienced thus far in supplying the troops in the outlying towns and districts, but it is feared that the supply problem will give trouble if the storm continues.

Motor trucks today were crawling over the hilly roads at snail's pace because of the drifts and density of the snow. Numerous accidents were reported and the weather was so cold that many cars were frozen and could not be moved.

The troops of a newly landed division, composed of former national guardsmen, tonight reached the towns in which they are to be billeted temporarily after marching for two days through the storm. Notwithstanding the severe weather, their experience seemed to have done them more good than harm, for the men are rapidly becoming hardened. Former guardsmen of another division carried on their work in spite of the storm, engaging in bayonet, grenade and automatic rifle practice without interruption.

Troops from the southern states have been quite uncomfortable in the last few days, but they are becoming accustomed to the cold and snow.

HOOVER WAS NOT
ON HAND WHEN
CALLED TO TESTIFY

Senate Committee Then
Wires Food Administrator
to Appear on Next
Wednesday

Washington, December 28.—Food Administrator Hoover, now in New York, was requested by telegraph tonight to appear next Wednesday before the Senate committee investigating the sugar situation. The telegram was sent by Chairman Reed after the committee had considered in executive session a subpoena which should be issued for the food administrator, who had been advised last Saturday that the committee expected to hear him today.

Last week Mr. Hoover made several futile attempts to get a hearing before the committee. It was said he was delaying an important business trip to New York. Since then his statement on the sugar situation has been made public by the White House, and when the committee met this morning there was a letter from counsel for the food administration saying the administrator had been called to New York and would be there several days.

REED EXPLAINS
In announcing the telegraphic request Senator Reed referred to criticisms of the conduct of the hearing and said that the witnesses examined had been selected at random from a list furnished by the food administration. So far, he said, two witnesses had been heard favoring the administration and one opposing it.

With no other sugar witnesses available the committee again took up the coal investigation with W. B. Colver of the federal trade commission continuing as witness. He disagreed with the statement of Fuel Administrator Garfield that there is a shortage of coal, saying there is plenty of it and the trouble is it cannot be transported.

REED'S VIEW WRONG
Senator Reed tried to develop from the witness that miners were making such high wages that they could earn enough in four days a week to supply their needs and declined to work six. Mr. Colver said he did not believe that to be generally the case and gave inability to get coal cars as the reason for curtailed labor questions. L. A. Sneed, in charge of distributing coal for the fuel administration, said that one-third of the coal difficulty was due to a hoarding of a "psychological shortage." He said it operated like a run on a bank, that there would be enough money if withdrawn gradually but a shortage if every depositor wanted his money on one day.

PRIORITY ORDERS

Evils growing out of too many priority orders for the movement of freight, Mr. Sneed thought, had been mitigated by the present plan of having the priority board pass on all requests for priority.

Sneed said coal was the last freight generally moved now by the railroads and gave transportation improvement as the only solution of the problem. He said that within 200 miles of sections of Ohio where people are suffering 300,000 tons have been tied up by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, the officials of which maintain their connecting lines at Cincinnati cannot take it over.

LaFollette Expelled
From Madison Club
for Disloyal Stand

Madison, Wis., December 28. United States Senator LaFollette was expelled from membership in the Madison club tonight because of "unpatriotic conduct and giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

NO ADDITIONAL
DRAFT CALLS TO
BE MADE NOW

Local Boards Instructed to
Continue Filling Vacan-
cies Caused by Rejec-
tions at Camp

Washington, December 28.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has notified state governors that there will be no more formal calls for deferred percentages of the present quota of national army men before February 15. All men who have been called but whose order numbers are so low they are not actually in camp, will get the benefit of the new classification.

Boards have been instructed, however, to continue sending men to make up deficiencies in the quota caused by rejection of men already in the service until they have enough men finally placed in the first class. They were notified also to expect very shortly calls for men skilled in special lines of work.

ROOSEVELT TO VISIT
WASHINGTON SOON

Will Go to Capital to See if He Can
Speed Up War Programme

Oyster Bay, December 28.—Within the next month or six weeks, it became known today, Col. Theodore Roosevelt will go on to Washington for a visit at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth. It will be a purely private visit. He will attend no public functions and will make no speech or statement of any kind.

Colonel Roosevelt, it is understood, desires to consult with certain members of the Senate and House about speeding up the war and doing everything possible to make this country's work for war more efficient. He also is desirous of having introduced as a permanent governmental policy, some such plan of military training as that provided in Senator Chamberlain's bill. The visit is made in consequence of the request of Senator Smoot and Congressman Madden.

WOMEN EMPLOYED IN
U. S. & P. RAILROAD
SHOPS IN MONROE

They Are Cleaning Coaches, Wiping
Engines and Working in the
Stockroom

Monroe, La., December 28.—Because of a shortage of male labor, women are being employed to perform some of the lighter tasks in the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific railroad shops here, officials of the company announced tonight. The women are cleaning coaches, wiping engines and working in their stock room.

Minister, His Wife and
Son Killed When Train
Crashes Into Automobile

Fort Worth, Tex., December 28.—Dr. A. L. Andrews, pastor of the First Methodist church of this city, his wife and son William were killed instantly today when an automobile in which they were coming to Fort Worth, crashed into the Sunshine special on the Missouri Pacific railroad at a crossing near Dalworth. The car was demolished.

Noted Doctor Dies

Baltimore, December 28.—Dr. Charles W. Mitchell, noted specialist in children's diseases, and a member of the faculty of the University of Maryland, died of pneumonia today. He was born in Baltimore 59 years ago and was a classmate of President Wilson at Princeton university.

BRITISH ADVANCE
AGAIN FOLLOWING
FAILURE OF ATTACK
MADE BY TURKS

Another Splendid Victory
Reported From Troops
in Palestine

GERMANS CONTINUE
TO HAMMER FRENCH
FRONT AT VERDUN

Austrians Claim to Have Repulsed
Italians in Fighting West
of Asolone—Patrols
Are Active

London, December 28.—The British troops in Palestine have repulsed a Turkish attack north and northwest of Jerusalem and made an advance of about two and a half miles on a front of nine miles along the Turkish right flank, says an official communication issued today.

The Turks suffered severe losses in the repulse, which came after the British picked had been driven in.

FRENCH REPORT

Paris, December 28.—Artillery fighting continued during the night on the Verdun front near Caubert wood where the Germans made an unsuccessful attack on Wednesday, the war office reports. There also was heavy shelling in Lorraine. The communication follows:

"During the night there were artillery actions in the region of Caubert wood and in Lorraine, in the sector of Yehou, where the bombardment became very severe late in the night. In Upper Alsace a French patrol brought back prisoners. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

ITALIAN ATTACKS FAIL

Berlin, December 28.—(Via London.) "Throughout the day there was increased artillery firing on the Asiago plateau, and the Tomba Ridge (northern front)," says today's official report from the Italian front.

London, December 28.—The repulse of Italian attacks west of Asolone and east of Monte Solarolo, on the northern front, is reported in an official Austrian statement received here today.

NO INFANTRY FIGHTING

Rome, December 28.—Active patrolling and aerial operations took place yesterday but there was no renewal of infantry fighting on a large scale. Following is today's report from army headquarters:

"In the Giudicarie and Lagarina valleys enemy patrols were driven back. On the Asiago plateau to the west of Canovò Zotto, one of our companies surrounded the garrison of an enemy advanced post, capturing an officer, 26 men and much war material. Between Cesuna and Canova our patrols raided the enemy line, bringing back an officer and 36 men."

Women Nurses Are to
Be Employed on Naval
Hospital Ships First Time

Washington, December 28.—Women nurses are to be employed on naval hospital ships in this war for the first time in American naval history. It became known today that they will be assigned to two ships soon to be ready for service the Comfort, formerly the Ward liner Havana, and the Mercy, formerly the Saratoga, of the same line.

Both liners have been completely remodeled and fitted with accommodations for 300 patients each. There will be special quarters for the women nurses at the New Hampshire School for the Feeble-minded, on June 28, today pleaded guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to prison for life. He had previously pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity and his trial was set to begin next Monday.

Bradford Changed Plea
Laconia, N. H., December 28.—Morris P. Bradford, who shot and killed Miss Alice B. Richards and wounded two other teachers at the New Hampshire School for the Feeble-minded, on June 28, today pleaded guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to prison for life. He had previously pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity and his trial was set to begin next Monday.

Summary of the News

GENERAL NEWS
1—Railroads go under government control without formality. German submarine reported sunk by guns of American liner. Three of Pershing's men reported killed. British make another advance in Palestine. Spanish peace feelers will not change attitude of allies. Coal mines to come next, is opinion in Washington. No additional draft calls to be made now. 2—Packing inquiry is bringing out squeeze methods of big business. 3—Many Alabama enlisted men to be made officers. 4—War emergency food agency in place here by government. Two women are murdered at home in Kimberly. 5—Hunkeler highway committee meets here. Flour and sugar advertisements in papers barred. 6—Many different opinions on cause of coal shortages. 7—Editorial comment. 8—Society and Dolly Dalrymple. 9—Markets.

German Submarine Sent
Down By Gunfire From
American Passenger Ship

Naval Gunners and Others on Board Liner Make
This Report on Arrival in England—They
Claim Convoy Signalled That Direct Hit
Was Scored When Enemy Craft
Came to View

London, December 28.—A German submarine was sunk by the fire of guns of an American passenger steamer approaching the British coast Thursday, according to reports of the passengers and gunners aboard.

The ship was proceeding at full speed about noon in a very smooth sea. The weather conditions were such as to make the best visibility. A periscope was sighted by the watch on the bridge and the submarine was seen plainly by the passengers as it came to the surface at a distance of about 1500 yards directly in the wake of the ship.

The steamer was brought about sharply and the two guns fired with only an interval of two seconds between shots. The second shell exploded and debris from the submarine was seen flying in the air. Afterward no trace of the submarine was visible.

The convoy signalled to the liner: "A direct hit."

The watch on the bridge and the gunners and passengers confirm this verdict. No trace of a torpedo was seen. The incident passed so quickly that there was no alarm or panic. Passengers who came running to the deck at the sound of the guns were told that the excitement was all over.

U-Boats Reported Captured

Boston, December 28.—Four German submarines were captured recently by 12 American destroyers, according to an American seaman who reached his home here from a French port tonight.

The seaman, a former Boston newspaper man, was aboard a troop ship at the French port recently, he said, when the destroyers, all flying the Stars and Stripes, steamed in with their prizes. The submarines were lying upon the surface of the ocean, with their conning towers open, recharging their batteries, when decided to surrender.

While the transport was still at a French port, the seaman said, a German U-boat entered the harbor with a white flag flying from her periscope. The enemy crew explained that they had been lying in wait for the troop ship in the open sea, and that when they failed to find her and the supplies ran low, the crew maimed, killed the commander and open, recharging their batteries, when decided to surrender.

On the other hand, it is regarded as a serious step by the Teutonic group, which regards an early peace as the surest and perhaps the only method of avoiding disaster.

Neither in London nor Paris is there a disposition to deride the German offer as spurious. On the other hand, it is regarded as a serious step by the Teutonic group, which regards an early peace as the surest and perhaps the only method of avoiding disaster.

London, December 28.—Premier Lloyd George, in a letter which he sent today to the special national labor conference, declared:

"Achievement of the purposes for which the allies are fighting is essential to the future freedom and peace of mankind."

The premier also asserted that a statement on war aims could be made only in agreement with Great Britain's allies. The question of issuing a fresh joint declaration, he added, was being constantly kept in view by the entente allied governments.

The premier's statement is regarded as the British reply to the German peace offer.

The labor conference was convened here today by the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress and the executive committee of the labor party in the central hall at Westminster to consider a "memorandum on war aims." A pronouncement was adopted with a virtually unanimous show of hands, declaring that in continuing the war labor is actuated by a determination to make the world safe for democracy hereafter. No sympathy was expressed in the text of the statement with attempts to convert the war into one of conquest, but it said restitution and reparation and also certain territorial readjustments are necessary if the renewal of armaments and war is to be avoided.

The conference was attended by 750 delegates and was expected to place on record an expression of opinion from British labor on the war aims of this country. Its adoption of the memorandum is considered especially significant in view of the peace negotiations between Germany and Russia.

The statement placed at the forefront a demand for the restoration and rehabilitation of Belgium at the expense of Germany. It also dealt with Alsace-Lorraine, Italy, the Balkans, Poland, Turkey and German African colonies on lines similar to those suggested in earlier documents on these subjects.

Paris, Thursday, December 27.—France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war. Foreign Minister Pichon declared in replying in the Chamber of Deputies today to the peace terms of the central powers outlined to Russia.

He asserted that Germany was endeavoring to involve France in its negotiations with the Bolsheviks, but that the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace.

The foreign minister said Germany was seeking to protract the negotiations with the Russians, re-establishing commercial relations in the meantime, believing that in this way the Bolsheviks might be checkmated later.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, is reported to be drafting a new note to the entente allied ambassadors, again asking them to participate in the peace conference.

Petrograd, Thursday, December 27. (6:30 p. m.)—The delegates of the central powers to the peace conference at Brast-Litovsk have agreed to a 10-day recess in the peace negotiations, which will be resumed January 4, at a place not yet determined.

Washington, December 28.—Destruction of the American consulate at San Jose, Costa Rica, by fire today, is announced in state department dispatches. The fire swept an entire block.

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